

INTERVIEW SUMMARY AND REMARKS

This amendment is submitted pursuant to the interview of October 31, 2007 between the Examiner Lin Liu, Supervisor Jason Cardone, and Stephanie Winner. Amended claims 1, 46, and 61 were discussed. The limitation of "indicating by a pointer an owner of the entry, the owner being the TCP stack or the offload unit" was discussed.

Stephanie Winner asked if the claims should be amended to clarify the ownership aspect of the command ring and notification ring entries. There was agreement that clarification would be helpful.

Claims 28-31 are cancelled and claims 1, 7, 16, and 22 are amended to clarify the limitation of ownership for command or notification ring entries. As amended, claim 1 recites the limitations of a bit indicating an owner of an entry in the command ring and setting the bit in the entry by the offload unit to indicate the owner of entry is the TCP stack when the offload unit reads the command from the entry. As amended, claim 7 recites the limitations of the offload unit writing to the notification ring and indicating that the TCP stack is the owner of the entry that is written using a bit in the entry and the TCP stack reading the notification descriptor from the entry based on the bit. As amended, claim 16 recites the limitations of a bit in every entry of the command ring that indicates the offload unit as the owner when a command is written to the entry and the offload unit setting the bit indicating the TCP stack is the owner in any entries that are read by the offload unit. As amended, claim 22 recites the limitations of an offload unit that indicates by a bit an owner of each entry written by the notification unit as the TCP stack, the TCP stack processing the notification descriptors and setting the bit indicating that the offload unit is the owner in any entries in the notification ring that are read by the TCP stack, and the TCP stack indicating by a bit an owner of each entry of a command ring that is written by the TCP stack as the offload unit. Ownership of an entry in the command ring is described and supported in paragraph [0070] of the present application. Ownership of an entry in the notification ring is described and supported in [0078] of the present application.

The Pinkerton reference does not teach storing a bit in each entry of a command ring, which is a primary feature recited in the claims for passing the commands from the

TCP stack to the offload unit. Instead, Pinkerton simply teaches delegating certain commands to an offload unit that creates a linked list of parameters that is then communicated to the framing layer, as described in paragraphs [0052] and [0053] of the reference. The parameters include a pointer-based handle that is used to access a table. Nowhere does Pinkerton teach or suggest indicating ownership of any of the entries in the linked list. The linked list is created by the offload unit and read by various layers. Since the communication described by Pinkerton is unidirectional, there is no need to indicate an owner of the entries in the linked list.

To provide a teaching of the command ring, the Examiner cites Boyd, especially at page 9, paragraph [0118]. However, this section, and the rest of the reference in its entirety, only teaches the existence of a circular linked list that stores pointers. A ULP monitors the entries in the linked list and uses a credit-based mechanism to control reading from and writing to the linked list. Nowhere does Boyd teach or suggest indicating ownership within each entry of the linked list.

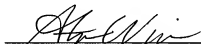
New Claims

New claim 38 depends from amended claim 22 and recites the limitation of the offload unit setting the bit to indicate that the TCP stack unit is the owner of any entries in the command ring that are read by the offload unit, as described and supported in [0070] of the present application. New claim 39 depends from amended claim 1 and recites the limitation of a command that includes a synchronization bit, as described and supported in paragraph [0073] of the present application. New claim 40 depends from amended claim 1 and recites the limitation of setting a bit in the entry in the notification ring by the offload unit indicating that the entry is owned by the TCP stack when the notification descriptor is written, as described and supported in paragraph [0078] of the present application. New claim 41 depends from amended claim 1 and recites the limitations of setting a synchronization request flag in the notification descriptor and flushing unused user buffer descriptors queued in the offload unit, as described and supported in paragraph [0098] of the present application.

Conclusion

In view of these amendments, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is requested. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Winner', is written over a horizontal line.

Stephanie Winner
Registration No. 52,371
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (650) 330-2310
Facsimile: (650) 330-2314
Agent for Applicant(s):